

WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
Thursday May 28, 2015

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, May 28, 2015 by Tamara Kenworthy at 5:30p.m.

Commission present: Brenda Sedlacek, Diane Boyd, TJ Lechtenberg, Tamara Kenworthy, Ryan Crane, Rita Luther (arrived at 5:40pm). Staff present: Director of Parks and Recreation Gary Scott, Superintendent of Recreation Greg Hansen, Parks & Recreation Secretary Sonya Coobs and City Councilman Rick Messerschmidt (arrived at 5:39pm)

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Sedlacek moved to approve the agenda. TJ Lechtenberg seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes- April 23, 2015 Commission meeting
Crane moved to approve the minutes. Boyd seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 4. Old Business

On Item 5. New Business

A. Presentation – James Jordan Memorial by Loretta Sieman

Loretta Sieman, 2414 NW 160th Court, Clive;

Sieman was contacted by the Jordan House board members a couple of years ago asking her if she could help them refurbish, renew and become the entity that they should be for West Des Moines and central Iowa. Sieman and James Ellwanger went to General Growth Properties and discussed erecting something on Jordan Creek Parkway that would explain the history of Mr. Jordan and the Jordan House. General Growth Properties agreed and the idea was presented to the Jordan House board. Sieman assured the Jordan House board that the job would be done professionally and started by contacting the WDM Community Foundation, speaking with the WDM City Council, who has allotted seed money, and coming to the Public Arts Advisory Commission to explain the ideas and intentions of the project. Sieman has begun the first phase of the project by notifying the businesses along the Jordan Creek Parkway explaining the process of the sculpture and asking them for the start-up seed money.

James Ellwanger, 1611 SW Vintage Parkway, Ankeny.

Ellwanger explained how wide the subject matter was for this sculpture. He grew up in this area and he wants the sculpture to convey the strength of the area in the past and the present, from the underground railroads to the growth of West Des Moines. His dream is to erect a sculpture that will outlive people of today so the story of Jordan continues to be told.

General Growth Properties has given permission to have the sculpture standing south of the Cheesecake Factory in the greenbelt area near the pond.

Sieman will be putting a committee together and would like to have someone from the Public Arts Advisory Commission to be a part of that committee to act as a liaison to report the progress. Scott explained the role of the Commission with a private property project, where there is no regulatory role or permission needed by the Commission in order for the work on this sculpture to proceed.

B. Motion – Appointment of Trail Art Selection Committee

The Commission reviewed the Trail Art Selection Committee:

Rita Luther and TJ Lechtenberg – Public Art Advisory Commission Members
Forrest Ridgway – Parks and Recreation Board member
Sally Ortgies- Parks and Recreation Staff member
Tina Dahl – Artist
Ann Shuman and Jake Joseph – WDM Citizens

Boyd made the motion to appoint the seven people to the Trail Art Selection Committee as listed and appoint TJ Lechtenberg as the chair. Luther seconded. Motion carried.

C. Art on the Campus 2016

1. Motion-Establishing the geographic limits for artist entries

Kenworthy explained to the Commission how Boyd was selected to be the Chair for this committee. Crane made the motion to appoint Boyd as Chair for the Art on the Campus 2016. Sedlacek seconded. Motion carried.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the geographic limits for the artist entries. Scott gave the meaning of regional (every state touching Iowa), the midwest/12 states and national. Crane made the motion to establish the geographic limits to be the 6 contiguous states to Iowa (Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Nebraska, South Dakota) for the Call to Artists for the 2016 Art on the Campus. Sedlacek seconded. Motion carried.

2. Motion-Establishing the stipend for artists chosen to exhibit

Scott handed the Commission a table for the Temporary Public Art in Iowa – Comparative Study to review and discuss. Sedlacek made a motion to establish the 2016 stipend for the artists that are chosen to be paid \$1500 apiece. Luther seconded. Motion carried.

D. Discussion – Art on the Campus 2015 Grand Opening

The Commission reviewed the party and discussed other ideas for next year. Direct mailing, partnering with businesses such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Enrichment Foundation and Leadership Institute Classes might help with attendance. The sub-committee will focus on partnering and awareness for the planning of next year. The 4th Thursday of April will be the date of the Opening.

On Item 6. Staff Reports

Superintendent of Recreation

Hansen deferred to Scott on the discussion for traveling to Chicago with the Commission, for the Art Conference.

Director of Parks and Recreation

Scott discussed departure time and arrival times for the Art Conference in Chicago.

Scott had met and discussed the Public Art funds with Kenworthy. A handout was given to the Commission regarding this funding. The Public Art funding has received \$120K from the hotel/motel tax each year. There is a balance of \$382K at this time in the budget.

This year Councilman Sandager wanted to allocate more money to the Public Art Commission but without the vote from other Councilmen it was decided that the Commission would be given a challenge for the extra money if some type of fund raising occurred. Scott and Kenworthy discussed and proposed that the Commission was not in a place to do fund raising. The main reasons include the projects the Commission has already begun, the Jordan House and Loretta Sieman are seeking funds from West Des Moines businesses, the Commission not needing the money at this time, and the Commission would need a major project to excite the donor community. Scott and Kenworthy recommend to defer that challenge for at least 2 years. The members of the Commission agreed. Scott will draft a letter for Kenworthy's signature to be sent to City Manager Tom Hadden.

On Item 7. Other Matters

Lechtenberg visited the WDM library with his family and the Joseph Dehnert piece "Frequency" was in place. His children were excited and enthusiastic about playing on it. Great to see the public enjoying it.

Sedlacek inquired about the Bloomberg Grant, when and if the staff had heard any more about it. Scott will inquire about it and report back.

Kenworthy asked about the BRAVO Cultural Enrichment Grant. Scott stated Hansen wrote the grant and applied for half of the grant funding (\$3500) to be applied on the Jeff Boshart project this fall. Boshart will need 20-25 middle school students to create artwork out of wood and then he will reproduce the wood sculpture into metal to be displayed at a location here in West Des Moines.

Kenworthy would like to see the Community Service sub-committee meet in June and work on awareness building for the Public Art in the community. The Commission will be doing a community service project wrapped around Public Art.

At the June meeting the Commission will choose a commissioner to be a member on the Jordan Project with Loretta Sieman.

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On Item 8. Receive, File and/or Refer

A. Motion- Approval of Allication for Bravo Cultural Enrichment Grant – May 4, 2015

Luther moved to adjourn. Lechtenberg seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Coobs
Parks and Recreation Secretary

ATTEST:

Diane Boyd
Commission Secretary